

It Takes A Millage



To Educate A Child

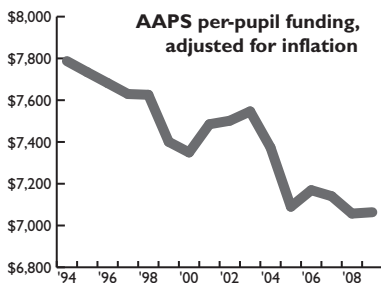
What Every Voter Needs To Know

Ann Arbor Citizens Millage Committee
a2cmc.org

What is the Washtenaw Schools Millage?

- » We're asking voters who live in the 10 school districts in Washtenaw County—including Ann Arbor Public Schools—to vote “yes” on a two-mill tax increase for public schools.
- » This millage will help fund current operations for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. **It will only allow Ann Arbor to keep existing programs**, not add new ones. Without it, the schools face serious cuts in teachers and possible closing of schools.
- » The proposed millage would raise about \$11 million for each of the next five years for AAPS.
- » All of the money from the millage—**100% of it**—will stay in Ann Arbor and the other school districts in Washtenaw County.
- » All registered voters who live in the 10 school districts of the Washtenaw ISD can vote on this proposal.
- » We're not alone. Voters in Kalamazoo, Monroe and Midland counties have passed similar proposals.

Why is this important?



- » **State funding of schools hasn't kept up with inflation** for many years, and schools have been cutting their budgets each year. Now the poor economy threatens to devastate our schools.
- » With the state's funding problems, Ann Arbor faces a \$7 million shortfall for this school year and a **\$15 million shortfall for 2010-11**. Our neighboring districts face similar severe shortfalls.
- » **Schools aren't in trouble because they are overspending.** Ann Arbor Schools has cut \$16 million from its budget over the past 4 years. The per-pupil funding from the state has decreased 9 percent since 1994, after inflation. We've lost many of the things that made our schools special. (See back)

Why do we need to act now?

☞ We can't wait for the state to get its house in order. We must join together now to help our children get the best education we can provide. Our kids depend on us to make sure they get the **excellent preparation they need for success** in the 21st century.

☞ Passing this millage means investing in our community, too. **Strong schools attract jobs.** Companies want to locate in communities with cutting-edge school systems and a highly qualified work force.

☞ We must **act locally to help our schools stay strong**—and open. By voting yes, we are raising money for our schools that stays right here in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County.

Vote Yes on November 3.

Learn more! Sign up! Donate! ☞ <http://a2cmc.org>



Ann Arbor has great schools...but they have been making do with less for many years. What cuts have they already made?

Ann Arbor Schools has tried hard not to cut teachers. Here are some cost savings:

- » Class sizes were increased for all grades.
- » The middle school program was restructured, taking away coordinated teaching and teaming (for 7th and 8th grades) and an elective period, in order to save \$2.3 million a year.
- » Many curriculum coordinators, who helped teachers develop programs and meet state standards, were eliminated.
- » All but essential custodial work is being done every other day.
- » Many enrichment programs and nearly all field trips are paid for with parent donations, if at all.
- » Services are being consolidated at the county level to cut costs.
- » Capital investments have helped to cut energy and maintenance costs.

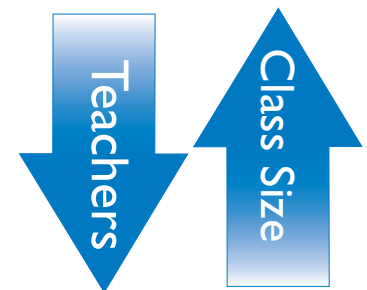
Here are some salary and benefit cuts school staff members have already taken:

- » Employee salaries have been frozen or risen slower than inflation over the past several years
- » Food service workers were privatized, with diminished benefits.
- » Administrative and support positions have been left empty, leaving others to pick up the slack.
- » Employees have contributed more toward their health care costs, and the district has capped the amount it contributes to health care and how much that amount could go up each year.

The storm is coming: what might we lose?

Each month brings worse news from Lansing about school funding. The Federal stimulus is being used up much faster than expected. **School funding is likely to be cut in 2010-11 by \$15 million. That represents about 200 staff, which would require cuts in several of these areas:**

- » More **class size increases**, with less personalized learning and more time spent on classroom management.
- » Eliminate the 7th hour at high schools.
- » **Reduction or elimination** of some services, such as transportation, maintenance and custodial.
- » Art, music, physical education, sports, elementary libraries and other **important programs are at risk.**
- » More **cuts to enrichment** programs.



What will this cost me?

Probably less than you think.

Home value (or more)	Taxable value	Annual cost
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$200
\$250,000	\$125,000	\$250
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$300

The proposal asks homeowners to pay an additional \$2 per \$1,000 of taxable value (2 “mills”). See the chart at left for examples.

In fact, half of AAPS taxpayers will see their tax bill increase by less than \$205 under this proposal; one fifth of all households will pay less than \$140 a year. Once you take into account the state property tax credit, and deductions on your federal tax return, 40% of AAPS homeowners will end up paying under \$100 a year, depending on their circumstances. Renters do not pay this tax directly at all.